SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 23 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

A Bowie boom in fashion

PAGE 24

WINNIPEG metro®

POOCH PARK TO PERK UP DOWNTOWN

Have a dog? Live downtown? There's money in the budget for a place for them to play, says Mayor Brian Bowman. Story, page 4.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Owners sue over leaky stadium

Legal. Building plagued by roof problems, poor insulation and drainage

The owners of the stadium where the Winnipeg Blue Bombers play have filed a lawsuit that maintains the architect and builder should be made to pay for extensive repairs.

Triple B Stadium alleges that the repairs were necessary due to faulty design and construction by Raymond S.C. Wan Architect and Stuart Olson Construction.

The $200-million stadium opened in 2013 and is to be the site for this fall's Canadian Football League Grey Cup game.

It has been plagued by problems such as leaky luxury suite roofs, insufficient insulation to keep plumbing operational in winter and poor drainage.

It also needed immediate renovations to make it usable for concerts, and its press box was unheated.

Stuart Olson says it does not comment on matters involving litigation.

Wade Miller, president of the Winnipeg Football Club, says in a statement that his organization fully supports the legal action.

Triple B Stadium includes a report from a Winnipeg architectural and engineering firm in its statement of claim filed Wednesday.

"During the design and construction of the stadium, there was insufficient attention to the mechanics of water drainage and heating, there was poor execution of critical details and poor construction quality control," Triple B Stadium quotes from the report in a news release.

The statement of claim lists five pages of defects and deficiencies.

Triple B Stadium chair Andrew Konowalchuk told CJOB Radio in Winnipeg that it's unclear how much it will cost for all the remediation work.

"Triple B and the Winnipeg Football Club spent $4.7 million worth of remedial work that either has been complete or is underway currently," he said. "Further testing is required."

Konowalchuk said the building is safe, but the problems need to be fixed to prevent more issues in the future.

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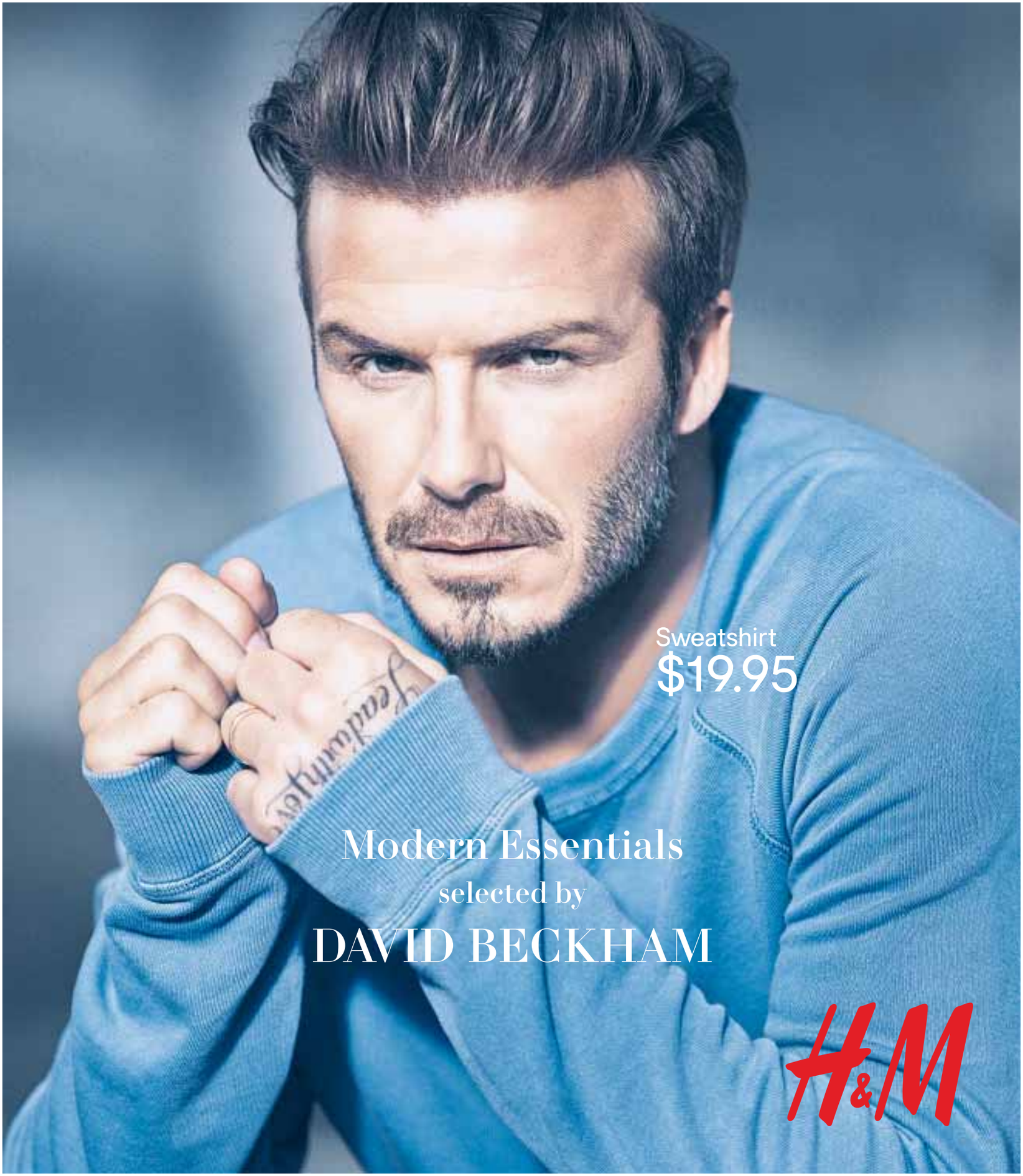
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No federal, provincial money for frozen pipes

Emergency Measures Act. Mayor disappointed by denial of application for disaster funds, but says the city was aware of that possibility

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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The city's finance chairman said no disaster financial assistance dollars will be coming from the federal and provincial governments for last year's frozen pipes emergency.

Coun. Marty Morantz said he had hoped the DFA application to Public Safety Canada, which was made before he was elected to office, would be approved.

"I think any reasonable person would look at what happened last year and say, 'Well yeah, that winter was a disaster,'" said Morantz after Wednesday's executive policy committee meeting. "But I don't know what the requirements are around how the province judges that — I wasn't involved in that process — so I can't really judge the decision."

A city spokesperson said the province sent a letter on Jan. 5 stating that following a review of the events, the DFA wouldn't be granted since the "Emergency Measures Act defines a disaster as an event resulting in loss of life, serious harm or damage to the safety, health or welfare of people, or widespread damage to property or the environment."

City crews work on frozen water pipes on March 20, 2014. CHRISD.CA

Mayor Brian Bowman said the application's denial is disappointing.

"It was an immense cost for a rare event," he said in an email to Metro.

"That said, the city was aware there was a possibility this event might not meet criteria to be eligible for funding, but certainly valuable to apply to help city recover costs incurred as a result of an incident that caused immense inconvenience for many citizens due to much colder than normal temperatures last winter."

History

City council voted in favour of applying for disaster financial assistance nearly a year ago, on March 26, 2014.

At that time, former mayor Sam Katz said he expected the costs incurred by the city over frozen pipes would continue to mount.

"The bottom line is we will spend much more than a dollar per person, which is the criteria, about $730,000 is what we have to spend, we will exceed that and after that the other levels of government come into play," Katz said.

Diane Sacher, the city's water and waste director, said in September of 2014 that the frozen pipes emergency cost the city $4 million. This figure included staff overtime, water run through the taps, reimbursement for pipe-thawing and additional equipment costs.

Mayor Brian Bowman walks along Esplanade Riel with his wife, Tracy, and their dog, Indiana, last summer.

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

City earmarks $300K for off-leash dog park

Winnipeg budget. Mayor Brian Bowman expects to start looking at potential sites for the downtown park in the near future

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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Dog owners in downtown Winnipeg likely won't have to wait long to get their paws on a park, Mayor Brian Bowman said on Wednesday.

In the 2015 budget, $300,000 has been earmarked for an off-leash dog park somewhere in the downtown, a pledge Bowman made during the campaign.

Bowman said a final price tag hasn't yet been determined, so the full amount might not need to be spent.

Quoted

"We found monies for a number of strategic projects to make our downtown more livable. Hopefully it'll be much less than $300,000."

Mayor Brian Bowman, noting the final cost hasn't been determined, so the city may not need to spend the full amount

"We found monies for a number of strategic investments to make our downtown more livable," said Bowman, adding that "hopefully it'll be much less than $300,000."

"That was a commitment that I wanted to see honoured, and I'm hopeful that that will continue to be in the budget as we go forward."

As for a timeline, Bowman said he doesn't believe the downtown dog park will have to wait until the city completes a new master plan for such parks.

"I'm expecting in the coming months that we'll have some potential sites looked at that we can next select and then proceed ideally for this year," he said.

"It'll probably come at a later date, the overall plan for the entire city. The downtown one was a very specific promise in the campaign, so I want to fulfill that campaign pledge."

Bowman said he believes this park would become a destination for Winnipeggers in the suburbs, giving them a reason to come downtown to spend some time with their families and their pets. Most notably, Bowman said, it's also for those already living downtown.

Budget 2015 responds to city's needs: Bowman

A day after the unveiling of the city's 2015 budget, Mayor Brian Bowman answered questions on a wide range of items during a media scrum.

On the frontage levy, Bowman said he understands the reasoning behind calls for this levy to be rolled into property taxes but feels it's fine as it is.

"What I do appreciate from frontage levies is the fact that it's a dedicated tax and it's transparent where the money is going to go, and so it's 100 per cent going to street renewal," he said, adding that Winnipeg roads are in "horrible shape."

On the city hiring 39 full-time equivalent positions to manage assets and projects, Bowman said they're always looking for ways to improve "the accountability and the efficiencies at city hall."

Quoted

"We've got a long way to go to fully restoring trust and faith at city hall."

Mayor Brian Bowman, on how improving accountability and efficiencies at city hall will help renew voters' trust

These new positions will incorporate recommendations from the numerous audits that have been done over the past few years.

"We've got a long way to go to fully restoring trust and faith at city hall, and that's one way in which we can do so," he added.

Bowman also defended his budget against criticism from media pundits that it's Sam Katz-esque.

"I believe that we rolled out a budget that responded to the priorities that Winnipeggers set out on Oct. 22 and the positive change that I campaigned for," he said, adding the threshold increase for the municipal business-tax rebate (up to $30,000 from the previous $23,880) is something Katz did not do.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Charest talks energy at Chamber of Commerce

Former federal Progressive Conservative leader and former premier of Quebec Jean Charest was in the city on Wednesday to speak to Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce members about the global demand for energy and natural resources and how these trends impact Winnipeg. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Manitoba museum to expand main gallery

An artist's rendering shows what the expanded Alloway Hall will look like from the outside. CONTRIBUTED

Plan. Space growing to more than 9,700 square feet; upgrades to acoustical ceiling tiles, theatrical lighting, sound systems

SHANE GIBSON
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The Manitoba Museum is getting bigger.

The museum announced a $5.3-million expansion of its main exhibition gallery Wednesday, which will see Alloway Hall nearly double in size.

Manitoba Museum executive director Claudette Leclerc told reporters the expansion not only means the museum will be able to attract larger travelling exhibits, it'll also now have room to fit more of the exhibits that it already gets.

"I think a great example is this Real Pirates exhibit (on right now) — we've actually only got two-thirds of it on display," she explained. "We made sure the things that people really want to see (like) the pirate treasure is all in Alloway Hall, but the other props and a number of the interactive components we could not fit."

The work will see the gallery space grow from 5,000 square-feet to more than 9,700 square-feet and will include upgrades to the heating and air conditioning system, the replacement of acoustical ceiling tiles and the installation of a new theatrical lighting system and sound system.

The money for the work comes from a partnership between the Winnipeg Foundation and both the federal and provincial governments.

The province put a little more than $3.8 million into the expansion, the feds added $1 million and the remaining $500,000 came from the Winnipeg Foundation.

"This is the largest classroom we have in the city," said Winnipeg Foundation CEO Rick Frost of the hall, which was named after the foundation's founder, William Forbes Alloway. "It is truly an important investment for this city."

Shelly Glover, Canadian Heritage and Official Languages Minister, was on hand Wednesday as the funding for the museum's main exhibition gallery was announced. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

The work, expected to be finished by the end of 2016, is part of a larger $160-million plan the museum has to make improvements in the coming years.

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Vince Li will be monitored closely, experts tell critics

Crime. As concerns of Li's imminent freedom of movement mount, professionals weigh in on designation of 'Not Criminally Responsible'

The chances of Vince Li reoffending are extremely low, according to experts. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

On the face of it, the decision seems troubling.

Late Friday, the news broke that the Manitoba Criminal Code Review Board will allow more freedoms to a man who shocked the country in the summer of 2008 when he beheaded a fellow passenger on a cross-country bus trip.

Critics — including a federal cabinet minister and the dead man's mother — quickly stepped forward to question a system that seems on a path toward letting Vince Li eventually move into a group home in Winnipeg and, before then, to go into the city on unescorted outings.

But experts say Li, a schizophrenic who was psychotic at the time of the event, poses a low risk of reoffending. And they say he will be so closely monitored that should his mental health again deteriorate, it will be quickly detected and actions will be taken to rein in his freedoms.

"I would guesstimate that he will be probably one of the most monitored people in Canada, because of the high profile nature of the incident," says Chris Summerville, CEO of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada.

Summerville, who is based in Winnipeg, has worked with Li. He says the 46-year old has done well in care at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Li's psychiatrist, Dr. Steven Kremer, told the review board recently that Li had not had hallucinations in over a year.

On Friday, the review board ruled Li could transfer to a psychiatric centre at a Winnipeg hospital and will be allowed unsupervised visits to the Manitoba capital as long as he carries a cellphone.

"I wish that every person that I work with that has schizophrenia was doing as well as Mr. Li is doing," says Summerville.

"He's not at a high risk. They do not let people out who are high risk."

The "they" in Summerville's statement are the members of review boards — in this case Manitoba's — which control the confinement and care of people who are deemed "not criminally responsible" because of the state of their mental health when they have committed a crime.

Li received an NCR designation after he killed Tim McLean, 22, on a Greyhound bus. Li said he heard the voice of God instructing him to kill McLean, and repeatedly stabbed and mutilated the young carnival worker, who was travelling home to Manitoba at the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I would guestimate that he will be probably one of the most monitored people in Canada, because of the high-profile nature of the incident."

Chris Summerville, CEO of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada

Analysis

Risk low that NCR designees will reoffend

How dangerous are those deemed NCR?

Dr. Alexander Simpson is the chief of forensic psychiatry at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, a University of Toronto teaching hospital.

Simpson says in general the recidivism rate — the likelihood that offenders will reoffend — for people who are under NCR orders is low.

In fact, people held under an NCR are five times less likely to commit a later crime than people who are sent to prison for crimes and are released after they serve their time.

That's because people under an NCR order receive the appropriate medical care and supervision, he says. Unlike the penal system, where people serve a set sentence, in the NCR system people only attain more freedoms when their doctors and their review board are convinced that they are mentally fit and not a threat to the public.

Simpson says a Canadian research effort known as the national trajectory project found that people who go through the prison system have a 40 per cent chance of reoffending within three years of release. But for people who go through the NCR system, the rate is seven to nine per cent, he says.

People who are under NCR orders generally commit less serious crimes if they do reoffend — things like public disturbances, Simpson says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Property taxes. School boards seek big increases

While the city is proposing a 2.3 per cent property-tax increase this year, local school boards are looking for even more from homeowners.

Draft budgets for Winnipeg's six school divisions propose tax increases ranging from 2.2 per cent in River East–Transcona to 5.37 per cent in the Louis Riel division in the city's southeast.

Big increases to school levies hurt the city's ability to make its own financial decisions, according to Steve Lafleur of the Frontier Centre for Public Policy.

"Requiring the city to collect revenue to fund a portion of the education system means that the city takes the blame for funding increases while the province gets the praise for any quality improvements," he said.

To further complicate the funding formula, the city also receives a share of provincial tax revenues to help pay for various services.

"This funding shell game not only hinders the city's ability to provide those services but erodes accountability by severing the link between taxes and expenditures," said Lafleur.

"The city should use its tax base to fund its services, and the province should do the same."

Currently, school levies make up about half of the average homeowner's property tax bill.

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

Proposed increases

- **City of Winnipeg,** 2.3 per cent
- **Winnipeg School Division,** 3.7 per cent
- **Pembina Trails,** 3.1 per cent
- **St. James–Assiniboia,** 3.42 per cent
- **River East–Transcona,** 2.2 per cent (passed)
- **Louis Riel,** 5.37 per cent
- **Seven Oaks,** 4.8 per cent

Cashiers see little love at Singles Night at Safeway

Osborne Village.
Sales down during mixer despite influx of shoppers to store

SHANE GIBSON
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Safeway estimates more than 1,000 singles came to the Osborne Village store on Tuesday for Singles Night at Safeway. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

It looks like the singles that mingled at Tuesday's Singles Night at Safeway were more interested in picking up each other than picking up groceries.

Despite seeing an estimated crowd of more than 1,000 love-hungry shoppers charge through their doors, a spokesman from Safeway said the Osborne Village store saw a drop in expected revenue.

"Unfortunately our sales were down," John Graham told Metro on Wednesday. "It displaced a lot of our regular customers who would have typically shopped on a customer appreciation day."

The event started as a lark for two Winnipeg singles but blew up when people quickly started inviting their friends through Facebook.

Shoppers who showed up looking for love tied a produce bag on to their cart or basket to let other single shoppers know they were approachable.

The loss in revenue vindicated Safeway's decision to make it a one-time-only event, but Graham said singles could still let each other know they're available by tying a bag on their carts.

"We welcome any of our customers to carry on with that ritual," he said.

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Community lifts up family of four boys killed in fire

Funeral. Fellowship, thousands of dollars and house provided to parents still 'in shock'

Close to 1,000 mourners packed a church on Wednesday to pay respects to four young brothers killed in a house fire in southern Manitoba.

The service in Winkler was mournful but also tinged with hope that the surviving family members can begin to rebuild their lives with an outpouring of public support, said the reeve of the rural area.

"It was a typical Mennonite faith-based service: a lot of singing, a lot of calls to faith ... a lot of calls for the healing process to begin and a hope in the afterlife," Ralph Groening said after the service.

"I think (the parents) are in shock. I really do. I think it's reassuring to have 1,000 people mourning with them, but they're in shock. They're moving ahead slowly."

Smiling pictures of the four boys, aged between nine and 15, adorned the program for the memorial service.

Henry, Bobby, Timmy and Danny were killed a week ago when their rural two-storey farmhouse in the hamlet of Kane burned to the ground. Their mother, Doralee Eberhart, was able to escape with three other siblings, but the boys were in the upper floor and could not get out. The father, James Froese, and the couple's eldest son, Steven, 18, were just returning from work and tried to rescue the boys, but the flames and smoke were too much.

People have raised tens of thousands of dollars to help the surviving family members. One church offered the family a house, which they have accepted.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ralph Groening, reeve for Morris, speaks to media after the funeral service at the Bergthaler Mennonite Church in Winkler. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The remarkable uses of cattails

Cattails can prove useful by absorbing extra phosphorus in lake water, and when used in the production of biofuel. ISTOCK

A Winnipeg researcher says a common Prairie plant has the power to help heal a sick lake and create a source of renewable energy at the same time.

Richard Grosshans, senior researcher with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, says cattails are proving useful in the fight to remove an overabundance of phosphorus in Lake Winnipeg.

He says the cattails are especially good at absorbing the element.

Researchers also used ground-up cattails to create a unique kind of biomass, one that's being tested at Providence University in Otterburne, Man.

The resulting biofuel heats 80 per cent of the campus.

Last year, the self-contained system allowed classes to continue uninterrupted following a nearby gas-line explosion.

"If we hadn't had biomass, we would have had to shut down for two or three weeks," says Bruce Duggan of Providence University.

Grosshans says it has the potential to become an important product.

"What we're doing is creating a market for that material that otherwise would be mowed or left in the ditches," he says.

It's already caught the eye of Manitoba companies keenly aware that, beginning in 2017, Manitoba will ban the use of coal for space heating.

"Why would we spend our dollars bringing in energy from other provinces or other places in the world?

"It's just a matter of harnessing it and developing it," says Stephane Gauthier of Biovalco, a biomass company.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Applications

Richard Grosshans, senior researcher with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, says there may be other environmental and commercial applications for cattails, including its use to clean drinking water.

Justice

Man sentenced for smuggling cocaine into city

An Ontario man has been handed more than seven years in prison for trying to bring cocaine into Winnipeg.

Michael Tuan Van Nguyen of Mississauga was sentenced Tuesday in Winnipeg after pleading guilty to charges that included trafficking.

He was also fined nearly $50,000 for bringing a kilogram of cocaine into the province's capital.

Nguyen is the first of 14 people to be dealt with by the courts after a 15-month sting operation called Project Distress that involved Winnipeg and Brandon police as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Investigators targeted drug trafficking and organized crime.

Officers seized cocaine, meth, thousands of dollars in cash and 20 firearms.

CJOB/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accident

No serious injuries in school bus crash

Four children were taken to hospital as a precaution after a school bus and a car collided at a Winnipeg intersection. One adult was also taken to hospital.

Authorities say none of the injuries are serious.

The students are all from the Winnipeg School Division. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roseau River

Teen boy found dead on reserve

Relatives are identifying the victim of a sudden death on a southern Manitoba reserve as a 14-year-old boy.

There are media reports the boy was beaten and left in the snow on the Roseau River First Nation, but neither RCMP or the Dakota Ojibwa Police Service are releasing any details.

The boy's friends and family say he loved to play hockey and appeared in his final game hours before his death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ode to Prairies garners Juno nod

Music. Del Barber's latest release is a concept album

BACKSTAGE PASS
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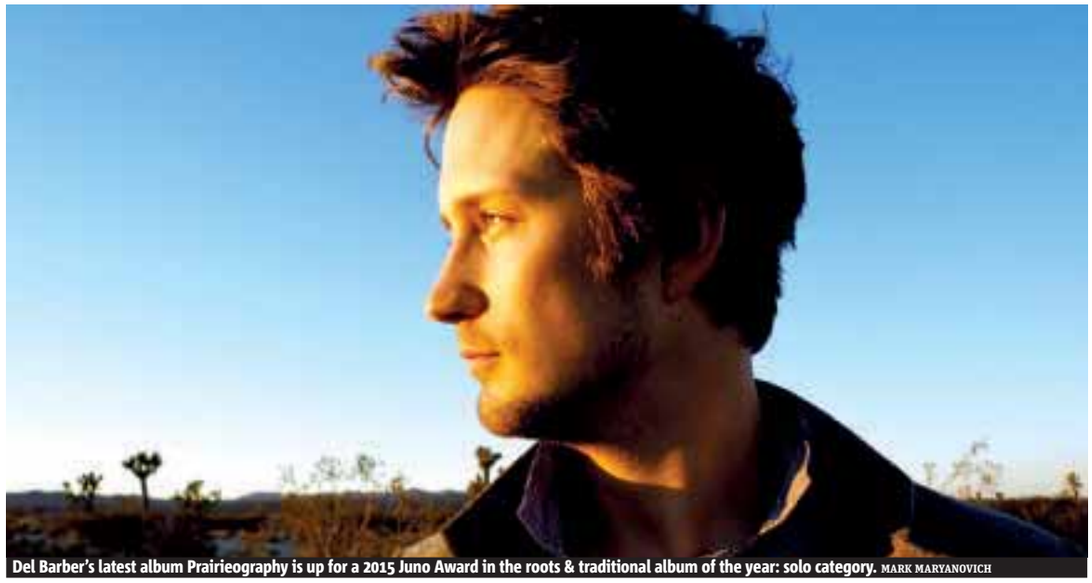


Del Barber's latest album Prairieography is up for a 2015 Juno Award in the roots & traditional album of the year: solo category. MARK MARYANOVICH

Del Barber's music has always had a sense of place, but on his fourth studio album the Manitoba singer-songwriter really homes in on home.

Prairieography is nominated for roots & traditional album of the year: solo at the 2015 Juno Awards, which will be handed out in Hamilton next weekend.

Barber, who lives in the village of Inglis, Man., was inspired to pen a completely Prairies concept record after revisiting Cowboyography, the 1987 album by Canadian folk legend Ian Tyson, while travelling through southern Alberta.

"I was like, 'This is what I always try to do, make a record sound like it's from somewhere. How can I translate geography into sound and narrative?'" Barber said. "That was the main goal with writing these songs. It's all trying to be distinctly placed in the Prairies or the Great Plains geography we know so well."

To get a genuine grasslands sound, Barber and co. transformed a vacant concrete grain silo outside Winnipeg into a reverb tank, a process Barber said was "ridiculously long and painstaking" and "pigeon-sh—t laden."

The granary vibe perfectly fits Barber's character-driven songs, stories about farmers turned Fort Mac oil riggers and country kids losing out in The Big Smoke. And to get it right, Barber taps into life experience beyond his own years.

His father, Boyd Barber, a longtime factory and mine worker, who spent time in the Royal Canadian Navy, co-wrote four songs on Prairieography.

"That's a big part of my life now, trying to figure out how to use people who have great life experience that maybe aren't stereotypical artists," Barber said.

Barber said an album consisting only of his own feelings and experiences would be "terrible."

"How big can a person's ego be?" he said. "I know I'm a white male songwriter. And I'm young, 31.

"How can I have songs that are going to actually matter to someone who is 65? Well, the way you do that is to write with someone who is 65. It's not rocket science."

If you go

Del Barber & The Profiteers play the Park Theatre on Friday. Tickets are $23.50 at Ticketmaster. Showtime is 8 p.m.

Elite performing arts troupe visits the city

One of China's most elite groups of acrobats, dancers and musicians is bringing its high-flying show to the city this weekend to help Winnipeggers mark Chinese New Year.

The China National Performing Arts Troupe will perform its two-hour long show at the Chinese New Year Carnival 2015 hosted by Manitoba Great Wall Performing Arts (MGWPA) Saturday night.

"These people have trained as a career to reach a level where they can be selected by the government to travel around the world to showcase Chinese culture and art," said David Tang, a MGWPA board member helping to organize the show.

The China National Performing Arts Troupe will perform in Winnipeg Saturday night at Regent Casino Events Centre. CONTRIBUTED/PICASA

"You can expect a lot of balancing acts and a lot of high-air acrobatics."

This marks the seventh year the MGWPA has brought a touring troupe from China into Winnipeg for the event, but Tang said this year is the first a national level troupe will perform in front a Winnipeg audience.

"In past years we've brought over provincial-level troupes," he said. "We've done such a good job that we've developed a reputation in China and government officials wanted to allow us to now bring over a national-level troupe."

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at Regent Casino Events Centre Saturday and tickets start at $35 at ticketmaster.ca.

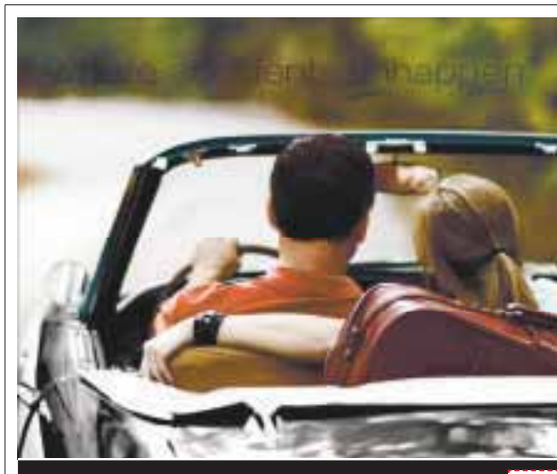
SHANE GIBSON/METRO

More information

Manitoba Great Wall Performing Arts is a not-for-profit organization dedicated in sharing the Chinese culture and arts in Manitoba.

Shania Twain to rock the country one last time

Canadian country star Shania Twain is coming to Winnipeg June 15 at the MTS Centre for her Rock This Country tour. Twain told Good Morning America the tour will be her last. Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at Ticketmaster. GETTY IMAGES



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Quebec. MNA withdraws ad from site that extols violence against women

A Quebec Liberal member of the legislature should not have advertised on an Islamic community centre website that includes texts extolling violence against women, Premier Philippe Couillard said Wednesday.

A photo of Marc Tanguay, the logo of the national assembly and his contact information appeared on the website of the FATH community centre.

Couillard called for the ad to be withdrawn, saying public funds should not have been used.

"It's not a question of freedom of expression," he said.

But the Quebec premier said public funds should not be used to help spread such opinions.

Couillard suggested Tanguay may not have been aware of the hateful comments when the ad was placed. Tanguay removed the ad after the premier's remarks.

The Montreal-area Muslim community centre describes itself as a non-profit association whose services include the teaching of the Qur'an and language courses for children and adults. Its virtual library includes books that encourage violence against women.

One book advises that if a wife does not say her prayers or refuses to obey her husband's orders, he should take her to task and even "go as far as to strike the woman, although it should not be painful."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Freedom and liberty worth some risk, Snowden says

Terrorism is "an extraordinarily rare natural disaster" and should not be used as an excuse by government to pass laws that limit our rights and freedoms, former U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden said Wednesday.

Edward Snowden THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowden made the comments through video link at the Toronto unveiling of the Snowden Archive — an online database of hundreds of classified U.S. government documents he leaked to the media in 2013. The archive is a joint project between Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and the Politics of Surveillance Project at the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto.

Snowden, who remains exiled in Russia since leaking the classified documents about the NSA's surveillance programs, has often spoken publicly against over-reaching laws passed in many countries in the wake of terrorist attacks.

Asked to comment on Ottawa's anti-terrorism bill, Snowden said it was "an emulation of the American Patriot Act."

"No matter what we do, no matter what laws we pass, we cannot throw away all of our rights, all of our liberties ... because we're afraid of rare instances of criminal activity."

Snowden said freedom and liberty are worth some level of risk. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipeline

U.S. Senate fails to override Obama's Keystone veto

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday failed to override President Barack Obama's veto of a bill to construct the privately funded Canadian Keystone XL pipeline. The 62-37 vote is expected to be one of many veto showdowns between Republicans, who control Congress, and Obama in his final term.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survey

Morale at Veterans Affairs plunging

The most recent survey of federal employees shows Veterans Affairs Canada is an increasingly unhappy place, with plunging morale and a frazzled workforce. The evaluation, published by Statistics Canada for the federal Treasury Board, shows that the number of staff who say the quality of their work has suffered has more than doubled since 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario town suing U.S. company over guardrails

A guardrail with an ET Plus end unit. Authorities across Canada are awaiting test results from the U.S. before deciding what to do about thousands of the safety devices, which could cause guardrails to rip through cars and motorists instead of protecting them in crashes. Several provinces have stopped installing the units, which would cost tens of millions of dollars to remove, while the town of Stratford, Ont., has launched a $500-million class action against the manufacturer. The lawsuit, filed in Ontario Superior Court, alleges Trinity Industries secretly made unauthorized changes to the ET Plus about 10 years ago and failed to warn anyone about "serious failures."

PHOTO: COURTESY TRINITY INDUSTRIES
TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory sentencing initiative a political move, critics say

New legislation. 'A life sentence in Canada will henceforth mean exactly that — a sentence for life,' said PM Stephen Harper

The Conservative government's latest tough-on-crime initiative to make life sentence a sentence for life without parole appears to be aimed at scoring political points rather than protecting the public, some critics and legal experts said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper told a Toronto crowd his government will introduce new legislation next week to ensure that what he called the country's "most dangerous violent offenders" will not be allowed back on the streets.

The new bill will "ensure that for the most heinous offenders and the most horrific crimes, a life sentence in Canada will henceforth mean exactly that — a sentence for life," Harper announced in front of a crowd that included families of murder victims.

The legislation would apply to those convicted of first-degree murder involving: the killing of police officers or correctional officers; terrorism; kidnapping or sexual assault; and crimes "of a particularly brutal nature." It would also apply to those who commit high treason, an offence that involves attempting to harm or kill the Queen, taking arms against Canada or helping an enemy at war with Canada.

While hesitant to judge the proposed changes until the bill is tabled, some critics and legal experts said the announcement raises several red flags.

"We already have a system that recognizes that the Paul Bernardos and the Picktons of the world should never be released," Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau said in Vancouver.

"I think a lot of this is campaigning on fear, which (Harper) is extremely good at, but I think we can all agree that bad criminals should not be released and we have to make sure that we're getting that balance right," he said.

"Most dangerous killers are already denied parole and held for life," NDP justice critic Françoise Boivin said in a statement.

"Sentencing reform should be focused on improving public safety, not on scoring political points," she said.

Benjamin Berger, a criminal-law expert at York University's Osgoode Hall law school, said the announcement comes across as "political sleight of hand."

"As things currently stand, the community is protected by the individualized judgments of a parole board," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In detail

Currently, those who are convicted of first-degree murder face an automatic sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

- According to the latest Correctional Service of Canada data on recidivism available, 658 convicted murderers were released on full parole between January 1975 and the end of March 1990. Of those, five were convicted of committing a second murder — three of first-degree and two of second.

MPs to see Parliament Hill shooter's video

After weeks of speculation, members of Parliament will get a chance Friday to see the video Michael Zehaf Bibeau made last October before he killed a Canadian soldier and stormed Parliament Hill.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson will use an open meeting of the House of Commons public-safety committee to provide a "detailed update" of the investigation into Zehaf Bibeau's deadly attack on Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, said a source familiar with the matter.

The source, who wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and therefore spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the video would be shown to the committee.

Pressure has been mounting on the RCMP — and the Conservative government — to release the video to give people a first-hand glimpse into Zehaf Bibeau's state of mind on the eve of his assault.

Last month, the public-safety committee, while affirming the RCMP's operational independence, invited Paulson to appear at his earliest convenience to display and discuss the video.

Asked about the matter on Wednesday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said it's up to the RCMP whether to release the video, since it's part of an ongoing police investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coal mine explosion kills at least 24 in eastern Ukraine

Donetsk. Rebels say accident caused by gas, not artillery fire

A rebel-held city scarred by months of conflict in eastern Ukraine suffered more tragedy Wednesday when a methane gas explosion in a coal mine killed at least 24 workers and left nine missing.

As rescue efforts stretched past sundown, separatist authorities were accused by Ukraine's government of failing to do enough to save the lives of the miners.

The blast occurred before dawn more than 1,000 metres underground at the Zasyadko mine in the city of Donetsk in the coal-rich Donbass region. Nearly a year of bitter fighting by pro-Moscow rebels and Ukrainian troops in the east has killed more than 6,000 people.

Rebel officials said the accident was caused by the ever-present danger of methane gas, rather than artillery fire.

There were contradictory accounts of the toll of dead and missing by the rival authorities. The rebel government that controls Donetsk was slow to divulge information, while a senior official in the capital of Kyiv was swift to give a death toll of 32, only to retract it several hours later.

The blast occurred as 230 workers were in the mine, and nearly 200 of them were quickly evacuated, but uncertainty lingered throughout the day about dozens of others.

Rebel officials insisted into the afternoon that only one person had died. But a slightly wounded miner who gave his name only as Sergei told The Associated Press that he saw five bodies being pulled out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukrainian coal miners load the bodies of colleagues killed in Wednesday morning's explosion at Zasyadko mine in Donetsk, Ukraine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston

Tsarnaev carried out bombing: Defence attorney

The question is no longer whether Dzhokhar Tsarnaev took part in the Boston Marathon bombing. It's whether he should die for it.

In a startling opening statement at the nation's biggest terrorism trial in nearly 20 years, Tsarnaev's lawyer told a jury that the 21-year-old former college student committed the crime. "It was him," said defence attorney Judy Clarke, one of the nation's foremost death-penalty specialists.

But in a strategy aimed at saving Tsarnaev from a death sentence, she argued that he had fallen under the malevolent influence of his now-dead older brother, Tamerlan.

Three people were killed and more than 260 wounded when two shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs exploded near the finish line on April 15, 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. attempted to deport man shot by L.A. police

California. No country would claim homeless man with mental illness, says U.S. Immigration

A homeless foreigner shot to death by Los Angeles police was in the country illegally after serving time for a bank robbery but couldn't be deported because no country would take him, U.S. immigration authorities said Wednesday.

France issued travel documents for a man identified as Charley Saturmin Robinet but rescinded them in June 2013 after determining it was an assumed name and the man was really from Cameroon, said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) spokeswoman Virginia Kice in a statement.

ICE, which had issued a deportation order in April 2013, said Cameroon consular officials failed to respond to repeated requests for travel documents. Cameroonian officials could not immediately be reached to comment.

The man, known as "Africa" in the rundown Los Angeles area of Skid Row, was shot to death Sunday. The confrontation that led to his death was recorded on a bystander's cellphone and viewed millions of times online. Authorities said the man tried to grab a rookie police officer's gun, prompting three other officers to shoot him.

Like many people on Skid Row, the man suffered from mental illness and his background was murky. He told U.S. authorities he was from Cameroon and gave a different name — Keunang — after France rejected him, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The man was in immigration custody in September 2013 when a federal judge in California ordered him to a halfway house. The man had no place to stay and no permanent address.

This February 2000 photo shows a man, mistakenly identified by the assumed name of Charley Saturmin Robinet, who was killed by L.A. police on Sunday.
VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He had served roughly 13 years in prison and spent six months in the halfway house before he was released in May 2014, said Ed Ross, a spokesman for the Bureau of Prisons.

Kice said the man regularly reported to immigration officials as required by terms of his release. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ferguson. Report blasts police for discrimination

The Justice Department cleared on Wednesday a white former Ferguson, Mo., police officer in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old — but also issued a scathing report calling for sweeping changes in city law-enforcement practices it called discriminatory and unconstitutional.

It found that the shooting occurred in an environment of systematic mistreatment of blacks, in which officials swapped racist emails and jokes without punishment and black residents were disproportionately stopped, searched, fined for petty offences and subjected to excessive force.

Officials announced 26 recommendations, including training officers in how to de-escalate confrontations and banning the use of ticketing and arrest quotas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Changes

Ferguson no longer issues failure-to-appear warrants and has rescinded warrants for nearly 600 defendants.

Gay-marriage decision

Mobile, Ala., stops issuing marriage licences of all kinds

The probate office in one of Alabama's biggest counties said Wednesday it will quit issuing marriage licences to anyone, after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled the state's ban on same-sex marriage is legal despite a federal court's decision to the contrary.

The all-Republican Supreme Court ordered Alabama's 68 probate judges Tuesday to stop issuing marriage licences to gay couples. The probate court in Mobile said Wednesday it would quit issuing marriage licences to anyone while reviewing the decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gang rapist's comments highlight views on women widespread in India

Gender relations. Documentary film exposes misogyny of death row rapist-murderer in a country where rape is common

When a condemned killer said the woman he and others brutally gang-raped on a New Delhi bus was responsible for what had happened to her, his comments were shocking in their callousness and lack of remorse. But the underlying view has wide acceptance in India.

Blaming women for rape is what hundreds of millions of men there are taught to believe.

The code for women in India is simple: Dress modestly, don't go out at night, don't go to bars and clubs, don't go out alone. If you break the code, you will be blamed for the consequences.

Indians wait for a bus at the bus stop where the victim of a deadly gang rape had boarded on Dec. 16, 2012, in New Delhi, India, Wednesday. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When one of the four men sentenced to death for the high-profile gang rape of the woman in 2012 was quoted in a new documentary as saying "a girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy," he was repeating something community and religious leaders in this nation of 1.2 billion routinely say.

"A decent girl won't roam around at 9 o'clock at night. ... Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes," Mukesh Singh said in the documentary, "India's Daughter," meant to be shown on Sunday, International Women's Day, in India and several other countries.

But how different were the convicted rapist's words from comments that Manohar Lal Khattar, the top elected official of Haryana state made last year?

"If a girl is dressed decently, a boy will not look at her in the wrong way," Khattar told reporters, "Freedom has to be limited. These short clothes are Western influences. Our country's tradition asks girls to dress decently."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More viewpoints

Sexual assault is frequent in India, justified by common traditional attitudes:

- **"(I want to) end the culture of boys and girls roaming around in malls holding hands."** B.S. Yeddyurappa, chief minister of Karnataka
- **"All by herself till 3 a.m. at night in a city where people believe ... you know ... you should not be so adventurous."** Sheila Dixit, then-chief minister of Delhi
- **"This man is just following the example our leaders are setting for our young men."** Jagmati Sangwan, head of the All India Democratic Women's Association

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McDonald's. Antibiotic and hormone-free fare on menu

McDonald's says it plans to start using chicken raised without antibiotics commonly used in humans, and milk from cows that are not treated with an artificial growth hormone.

The company says the chicken change will take place within the next two years. It says suppliers will still be able to use a type of antibiotic called ionophores that keep chickens healthy and aren't used in humans. The milk change will take place later this year.

Chipotle and Panera already say they serve chicken raised without antibiotics, but the announcement by McDonald's is notable because of its size; the company has more than 14,000 U.S. locations. Chipotle has nearly 1,800 locations, while Panera has almost 1,900 locations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Image

McDonald's Corp. is struggling to transform its image amid intensifying competition from smaller rivals positioning themselves as more wholesome alternatives. It saw customer visits to U.S. stores decline two years in a row.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 80.54¢ (+0.48¢)

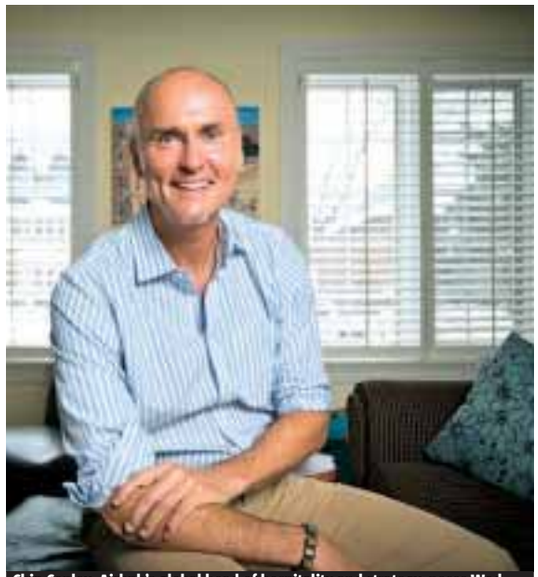
TSX 15,082.84 (- 51.01)

OIL $51.53 US (+ $1.01)

GOLD $1,200.90 US (- $3.50)

Natural gas: $2.769 US (+ 5.7¢)
Dow Jones: 18,096.90 (- 106.47)

Airbnb sees enough room, hotels don't share the view



Chip Conley, Airbnb's global head of hospitality and strategy, poses Wednesday inside one of the homes in Toronto that is listed on the residence-sharing site. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sharing economy. Airbnb has run into stiff opposition in some jurisdictions, including New York

Chip Conley believes Airbnb, a fast-growing company that links homeowners with travellers seeking accommodation, is not in direct competition with traditional hotels.

"There is room for both of them," said Conley, who is head of global hospitality and strategy for Airbnb, during a visit to Toronto on Wednesday.

Conley, 54, who joined Airbnb in 2013, says he understands both Airbnb and the hotel business. He was the founder of the Joie de Vivre boutique hotel chain and still owns 18 hotels in California and New York.

"The message that I've been saying to the hotel industry is that 'this is not an either-or,' " Conley said. "I think we can coexist."

But Terry Mundell, president and CEO of the Greater Toronto Hotel Association, disputes such a suggestion.

"The issue is not about either-or," he said. "This is an issue about paying and remitting commercial taxes the same as any other commercial enterprise."

A City of Toronto official says he has not received any complaints about Airbnb.

"At this time we are not considering regulating it," said Mark Sraga, the city's director of investigations, in an email. "Toronto's zoning bylaw does not restrict renting out rooms."

Conley insisted Airbnb is not evading taxes, noting Airbnb is paying occupancy or hotel taxes where required, including in cities such as Amsterdam, San Francisco and Chicago. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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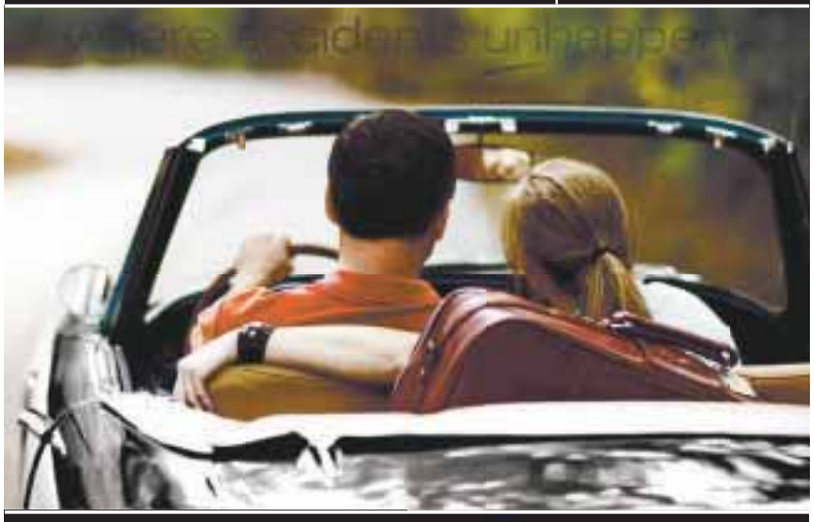

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No-poaching lawsuit. Judge OK with $415M settlement

A U.S. federal judge has tentatively approved a $415 million US settlement in a major class action lawsuit by Silicon Valley workers who accused Apple Inc., Google Inc. and other tech companies of making an illegal agreement not to hire each other's employees.

Judge Lucy Koh had rejected an earlier settlement offer, saying it didn't offer enough compensation to about 64,000 workers affected by the case. She cited evidence of a corporate conspiracy to make it difficult for tech workers to negotiate better jobs at rival companies.

Koh said she was satisfied this week after the companies increased their earlier offer of $324.5 million.

She invited final comments on the deal before she grants final approval at a hearing on June 9.

If Koh approves the latest settlement, it would avoid a potentially embarrassing trial for the companies

The lawsuit also included Intel Corp. and Adobe Systems Inc. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uber. Ride-hailing service buys mapping specialist

Uber Technologies is buying digital mapping specialist deCarta in a deal that may help the rapidly growing ride-hailing service lessen its dependence on navigation services from Google and Apple, a pair of potential rivals.

Although deCarta isn't as well-known as Google Maps, its technology is extensively used by consumers. The OnStar system built into cars made by General Motors Co. relies on deCarta, as do smartphone makers Samsung Electronics and BlackBerry Inc.

The acquisition will provide Uber's drivers with another way to find passengers summoning rides on the company's mobile app and deliver them to their destinations more quickly.

The deCarta deal comes a month after an unconfirmed report that Google Inc. is planning a rival ride-hailing service that would draw upon the driverless cars that the company has been building and testing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking

BoC stands pat on key interest rate

The Bank of Canada maintained its key interest rate Wednesday as it credited global economic conditions and its January cut for helping the country weather the oil slump.

The central bank's latest policy announcement, which kept the overnight rate target at 0.75 per cent, also contained a slightly sunnier outlook, leaving many analysts with the impression there won't be any other reductions any time soon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RRSP

Fewer Canadians contributing: Poll

A survey from the Bank of Montreal, conducted in the final week before the March 2 deadline, found 57 per cent of Canadians had made an RRSP contribution for the 2014 tax year. That was down from 65 per cent for the 2013 tax year and 62 per cent the year before that. But the average contribution, at $3,737, was up about $200. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

BIGGER IS BETTER, BUT SMALLER IS CHEAPER

Micro condos are being hyped as the next great thing in urban living. But since when did living in a shoebox become the property-owning dream?

MELISSA DUNNE
readers@metronews.ca

In the comedy Wanderlust, Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston get sweet-talked into buying an, ahem, micro-loft in Manhattan. At the time (the halcyon days of 2012), I laughed and laughed. Oh, New Yorkers living in their tiny boxes in the sky.

I'm not laughing now. Flash forward to early 2015 and micro condos have become one of the only serious options for some city-dwelling Canadians, like myself. With the average price of detached homes in both Vancouver and Toronto soaring past the $1-million mark, the dream of home ownership is now out of many average people's grasp.

Micro condos, realtor-speak for a condo unit that runs between 225 and 400 square feet, suddenly seem appealing. The spaces tend to attract investors looking to rent them out, rich people looking for a pied-à-terre, and not-so-rich people looking to finally get on the property ladder.

A few years ago I would have said I would never buy a micro condo. Now, I say, "Never say never." The Manhattanization of the city I call home means even the average price of a condo apartment in the 416 was an eye-watering $369,655 last month, according to the Toronto Real Estate Board.

Murphy beds used to be almost synonymous with dingy flats. But thanks to the marketing of micro condos, space-saving features are being touted as the hip new way to do city living. PHOTO BY SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

You can buy in for less if you're willing to downsize dramatically. Out in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey, a developer recently garnered media attention by reportedly offering units starting at $93,900. The catch? The suites started at 316 square feet. Another project in the heart of Toronto got my attention with its clever features, like a dishwasher in a drawer, to maximize space. The location is great and news reports say prices start at $249,999 for 300 square feet.

Despite the smaller price tag, I do have some reservations.

In the ads for these minuscule units, condo living looks so hip and fun. But in reality the big banks are said to be wary of giving mortgages for this unproven new trend. And the old rental apartment I currently share with my common-law partner is more than double the size of a micro condo. I worry we'd find living in a unit with a Murphy bed would seriously test our patience with each other.

So I, along with many other Millennials looking to buy their first place, am patiently waiting for the real estate bubble to finally burst. If that doesn't happen soon, perhaps I'll end up like those New Yorkers I used to mock smugly, and buy my very own tiny box in the sky.

Melissa Dunne is a freelance writer based in Toronto.

Micro condos at a glance

- For many young, hip urbanites, the appeal of micro condos is that they are highly polished, modern spaces that come with innovative and trendy space-saving amenities.
- The concept of micro condos may be new to Canada, but in densely populated cities such as Paris, Tokyo and Hong Kong, they have been a way of life for generations.
- There are nearly 3,000 micro condo units under construction in Toronto that are slated to be completed this year.
- In Vancouver, city bylaws dictate that condo units can be no smaller than 398 square feet, but one development is proposing "nanosuites" that would measure 200 square feet.

Metro asked those in the know: What's your take on micro condos?

Realtor

The banks are not lending on these units, so right now we can't really tell if they are going to take off or not. Micros offer living space in the very good locations ... I've seen the average size of a condo come down significantly in the last 20 years, and I think this will become a trend that lasts. Once the banks gain confidence in micro condos, first-time buyers will see them as viable options. Don't forget, the banks were skeptical about lending on condos when they first made an appearance 50 years ago, and look at them now!

Sandra Rinomato, broker/owner of Sandra Rinomato Realty, a brokerage in Toronto.

Planner

The uptake of micro condos will be successful only in exceptionally strong markets — Vancouver, Toronto, San Francisco, Boston, N.Y.C., London. From a planner's perspective, if designed thoughtfully and close to local social life and shops, these are an affordable, funky option for 20-something singles and couples. Not so for most households with kids. Over time, the real estate market will decide whether these will hold their value.

Linda Allen, community planner and managing partner at CitySpaces in Vancouver.

Micro condo dweller

Absolutely I'd buy a micro condo. It works for my lifestyle right now. In many cases there will be many people transitioning to this lifestyle ... I don't have a car ... There are four coffee shops right outside my door that aren't Starbucks. Your neighbourhood becomes your living room ... Canada as a country will become more urbanized and we'll have to accommodate that. People will be living smaller. I think there definitely is a future in micro condos.

Samuel Baron has been renting a 248-square-foot micro suite in Vancouver for just over two years.

Researcher

Small units play a big role in today's condo market. For buyers and renters, they provide an option to save on costs. For investors, they offer above-average yields. For developers, they allow projects to easier achieve pre-construction sales, facilitating new development. Micro units certainly will be needed in the future to accommodate growth (in Toronto) and maintain affordability, but the next couple years may see a case of too much, too soon. Thousands of units under 500 square feet will be completed, while population growth for younger adults is starting slow. Adding to this is their difficulty in arranging mortgage financing."

Shaun Hildebrand, senior vice president at condo research firm Urbanation.

Investment specialist

I doubt it's a passing fad. It's simply what people can afford. There is a huge market for tiny condos because many people cannot afford larger. This is Toronto's weird form of "affordable" housing. It's not likely to get any better. But it does have the effect of high turnover of those units because as people's household size increases (marriage, babies, etc.), they have a hard time staying there.

John Andrew, director of Queen's University's Executive Seminars on Corporate and Investment Real Estate in Kingston, Ont.

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MID-CANADA BOAT SHOW RETURNS TO THE WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE

The annual Mid-Canada Boat Show is always a sure sign that spring is on its way. Every year, the three floors of the Winnipeg Convention Centre are turned into an outdoor living oasis — and a chance to dream about living life to the fullest along and on top of Manitoba's many lakes and waterways.

Although spring may not exactly be around the corner, the boat show is the perfect time to buy a boat.

"Not only can you see the newest boat models, the show is a competitive environment for dealers and manufacturers," says show manager Dave Amey. "Which means that there are usually special boat show incentives. And there are huge savings to be had on 2014 models."

The four-day event is more than just an opportunity for savings, it's also the best time to educate yourself on finding the best vessel for your needs.

"The president of the Mid-Canada Marine Dealers Association will be at the Lund Theatre every day to talk about the questions you should ask yourself before you go upstairs to buy a boat," Amey says.

Fishing is a big part of the boat show experience, where attendees can take in demonstrations and seminars by such master anglers as James Lindner, Mandy Uhrich, Gord Pyzer, Craig Stapon and Alex and Amanda Keszler. And if you can't wait until spring to cook your catch, one of the new features of this year's boat show is a Friday Night Fish Fry.

"We'll be down in the loading dock, serving Manitoba smoked goldeneye and pickerel cheeks," Amey says.

One of the reasons that the show has been so successful since its launch in 1988 is that it offers something for everyone. If you already have a boat, you can explore your options in motors and other upgrades. You can also check out the latest in kayaks and paddle boards.

"It's about anything on the water and anything near the water," says Amey, adding that another new feature this year is the One Great Dockside Lounge & Spa. This complementary Zen Zone lets guests take a break and recreate the feeling of relaxing at the cabin.

What Amey is looking forward to most is watching the familiar faces returning to the convention centre.

"I get a kick out of watching the families. Seeing three generations of people coming back. And after a long winter it's good to see folks — neighbours from cottage country for example — get connected with each other again. It's a real social thing."

SHOW ADDS UP TO A GREAT EXPERIENCE

Three floors of the newest boats and motors, fishing and water sports equipment at the Winnipeg Convention Centre adds up to one great experience.

- The Mid-Canada Boat Show has been around since 1988, making it one of the longest running boat shows in Canada.
- In 2014, approximately 17,000 guests attended the event.
- This year, there will be 10 local boat dealers representing top manufacturers and suppliers in the industry.
- There will be more than 75 professional exhibitors showcasing boats, marine supplies, camping accessories and water sports gear.
- For 2015, there will be 200 boats on display.
- Giveaways are always great. This year's top prize is a chance to win a three-day, three-night fly-out fishing trip courtesy of Jackson's Lodge and Adventure Air of Lac Du Bonnet.
- You can buy directly from dealers. Over four days, there are expected to be millions of dollars in sales.

CONTRIBUTED

BOAT SHOW HOURS

Mid-Canada Boat Show hours:

- Thursday, 3-10 p.m.
- Friday, 3-10 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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DECADES OF QUALITY, EXPERIENCE

ALL BRANDS BOAT REPAIR IN STEINBACH

Lund Boats is an iconic brand in the boating industry, proven through decades of manufacturing quality and expertise.

But less known is the fact that Lund also hosts Canada's premiere boat-repair facility, right in Manitoba. All Brands Boat Repair is located in Steinbach, a short hop from Winnipeg.

"Our repair shop is proud to showcase the work we do every year by displaying our work on what I like to call the 'Shame to Fame Wall,'" says Jon Funk, the facility supervisor. "We firmly believe that the best way to prove what we can do is to show you what we've already done.

"Our name says it all. We repair all makes and models of boats, not just Lunds. On top of that, we don't just repair damaged boats, we can make tired boats new again with new interiors and paint jobs."

Stop by and visit All Brands Boat Repair's display on the second floor of the Winnipeg Convention Centre from Thursday through to Sunday to have a look at its mobile Shame To Fame display.

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CONTRIBUTED

Make an educated purchase

The Internet is a powerful tool when it comes to researching your next boat buy. It's never been more convenient to read reviews, compare prices and study specifications.

But the information superhighway also has misleading directions and confusing signs. Which is why the Mid Canada Boat Show is such a great opportunity to take the knowledge you have collected on the web and connect with dealers and experts in the real world.

"The Internet has changed the buying experience," says Greg Elkie, general sales manager, Marine and RV Division at Guertin Equipment in Winnipeg. "Customers are much more educated before they buy, which is a good thing."

Once you have all this information, the next step is figuring out how it applies to you. And that's where face-to-face conversation comes in.

"In person, you get a tailored experience," Elkie says.

He adds that the boat show, with three floors of vendors and displays, offers buyers the opportunity to comparison shop and connect with dealers.

"You get to see the majority of marine dealers all in one place," Elkie says. "It's very convenient."

Elkie's own expert advice to potential buyers is to focus on how you plan to use your watercraft. If you are an angler, there is a big difference between a bow rider and a bass boat, for example. Although the event showcases the newest and brightest watercraft, as well as great deals on marine vessels, "make an educated purchase," Elkie says. "The best boat is the one that meets your needs. If it doesn't, it will become more expensive down the road."

Author of the Divergent trilogy, Veronica Roth, is writing a new book in "the vein of Star Wars." GETTY IMAGES

More from Roth on the way

Books. The author of the hugely successful Divergent trilogy is working on new series

Veronica Roth fans can start the countdown.

The Divergent author is set to write a new two-book series, HarperCollins Children's Books told The Associated Press. Currently, the books are untitled, with the first one expected in 2017 and the next in 2018.

Roth and her publisher offered few specifics, beyond saying the series is in the vein of Star Wars and will tell of a boy's "unlikely alliance" with an enemy.

"Both desperate to escape their oppressive lives, they help each other attain what they most desire: for one, redemption, and the other, revenge," the publisher announced.

In a recent email to the AP, Roth wrote that the idea "started with a character. All the other elements — setting, world, even a substantial portion of the plot — came after." She added that while she had a "pretty detailed" outline for the new series, she was still in the early stages of writing.

"That's why I'm being so vague," she explained.

Divergent, along with Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games and John Green's books helped perpetuate the strong growth of young adult novels.

When it was released last year, the first Divergent movie, quickly earned more than $100 million at the box office.

Three more movies are planned, starting with the March 20 release of Insurgent.

A Chicago resident, the 26-year-old Roth was still in college when she began Divergent, writing it in her pyjamas while on winter break from Northwestern University. She is now one of the world's most popular authors.

"I think I'd have to be a robot not to occasionally worry about expectations!" she wrote to the AP. "But mostly I try to trust my instincts. It helps that I'm really in love with this project — that makes it a joy to work on.

"I've been really taking my time with it," she said of the new series. "I've written huge sections a certain way only to cut them and start again. I've stepped away for a while, to work on other things, and then come back when I have better perspective. I've been more patient with myself and with the story. I've expanded my collection of comfortable pants and snack foods. It's all working quite well so far."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Divergent

- **The book.** Divergent, a Dystopian trilogy, was completed in 2013 and sold more than 30-million copies.
- **The movie.** The first Divergent film, starring Shailene Woodley, came out a year ago.

Divergent fever? Feed your fandom...

If you've read Roth's books and your Hunger Games and Maze Runner books are long-devoured, here are a few recent and upcoming books that may satisfy your penchant for dystopian teen fiction AFP

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

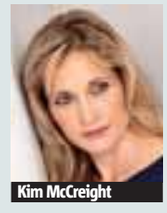
In a society where those in possession of superpowers are better positioned to lead their nations, a peasant girl with superpowers of her own threatens to upset the status quo and is quickly subsumed into the royal line, despite her secret commitment to revolution.

Seeker by Arwen Elys Dayton

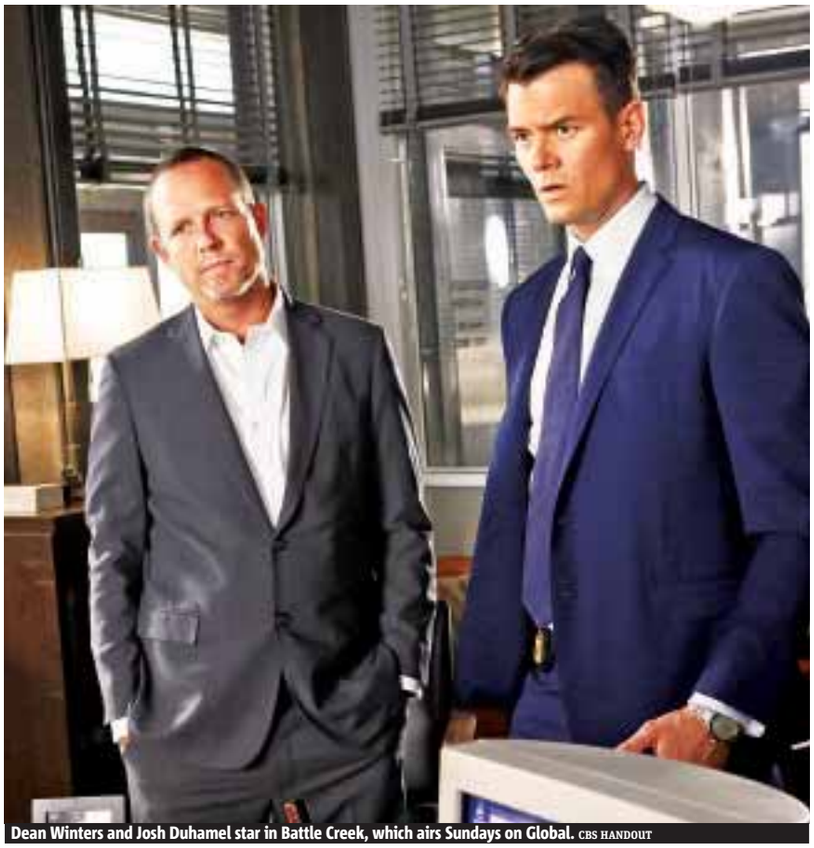
Quin Kincaid, a girl who has spent her life being trained for the role of a deadly assassin, is destined to fight beside her two closest companions, Shinobu and John. She takes her Oath and discovers that being a Seeker is not what she expected. Sony Pictures has optioned the story.

The Outliers by Kimberly McCreight

A group called the Outliers, claim to be able to harness "intuition" as a psychological weapon. The trilogy boasts a heroine with "the wit and wisdom of John Green's Hazel Grace, the ambition of Veronica Roth's Divergent." The book's film rights have been acquired by Lionsgate.


Kim McCreight

SCENE



Dean Winters and Josh Duhamel star in Battle Creek, which airs Sundays on Global. CBS HANDOUT

The show that (almost) started with a bang

TV. Actors' near-collision pre-shooting reflects future clash of characters in Creek

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Josh Duhamel and Dean Winters had never met before starting work on the new police dramedy Battle Creek.

"I was actually driving onto the lot in Manhattan Beach for a fitting," says Winters, the actor known for his roles on Oz, 30 Rock and the Allstate Insurance commercials, "and I wasn't looking where I was going and literally, true story, almost ran Josh over. That was our first encounter."

Their jarring introduction could have been useful as they created their characters: a Battle Creek, Mich. cop and an FBI agent who butt heads on police procedure and everything else. But they decided not to be too method in their approach to the work.

"To me, that is a sign of insecurity in people who don't know what they are doing," says Winters.

Instead the pair did on-the-job research to get under the skin of their characters.

Duhamel spent time with Battle Creek cops, doing ride-alongs with their undercover officers, drug enforcement team and gang unit. "There is some real stuff happening in that town," he says. "Nobody would ever suspect, because it sits right in between Detroit and Chicago, but they get a lot of riff-raff fleeing either city and hiding out there. They get a lot of crime you wouldn't expect in what seems to be a very all-American town."

Winters says "the best part of the ride-alongs is actually listening to the cops talk. They have their own language, their own rhythms in the way they talk to one each other. It's really fascinating. I don't think anyone has ever really captured it, to be honest with you.

"It truly is a whole different world. I really do think the relationship Josh and I have is pretty close, especially when we're driving down the street in the Suburban. A lot of those conversations are priceless. I think (Canadian series creator-writer) David Shore has a real ear for that."

On screen, the pair investigate a series of wild cases .

"The crimes we are investigating on the show you won't see anywhere else," says Duhamel.

Under the radar

"They get a lot of crime you wouldn't expect in what seems to be a very all-American town."

Josh Duhamel
On Battle Creek, Michigan

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Marvel series full of inhuman acts

TV. Here are three things Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D fans need to know about the return of the series

It's fair to say that the mid-season finale of Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. changed pretty much everything for the characters on the comics-inspired saga. We learned that Agent Skye, played by Chloe Bennet, is really Daisy Johnson and that nothing will be the same for her again. She underwent a bizarre transformation that Marvel fans know has awakened dormant superpowers. Meanwhile, Raina, played by Ruth Negga, was also changed, but into what, exactly, has yet to be seen. During a recent stop in Toronto, co-star Ming-Na Wen, who plays Agent Melinda May, offered up a few tidbits about the final half of the second season. Here are three things to know about this month's return of Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., which airs Tuesdays on CTV.

Quoted

"There are just so many new layers of relationships and who these people are, and I can't wait for the fans to see it."

Series star Ming-Na Wen on the final half of the second season

1. Skye is "inhuman"

"We'll definitely be delving into Skye turning inhuman and how that affects the team. And, of course, definitely how that affects her," says Wen.

"It's really a new origins story about how this girl was picked up by Coulson and adopted by the S.H.I.E.L.D. family. She was sort of this outsider and she kind of became part of the family ... and now once again she's sort of an outsider because being an inhuman, we really don't know what to do with her."

2. Could there be more time in the makeup chair for Ruth Negga?

The transformation that overtakes Skye consumes Raina as well, but in a very different way, says Wen.

"Raina has been transformed externally as well," she notes. "Unlike Skye, who remains the same (physically) and you weren't quite sure what changed with her. But I think Raina got the raw end of the deal."

3. More characters are on the way

"Edward James Olmos will be playing a character, I'm a huge fan of his," Wen says of the Battlestar Galactica alum. According to Marvel.com, he plays Robert Gonzales, whose arrival "will have massive repercussions" for the team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ming-Na Wen plays Agent Melinda May in Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.
GETTY IMAGES

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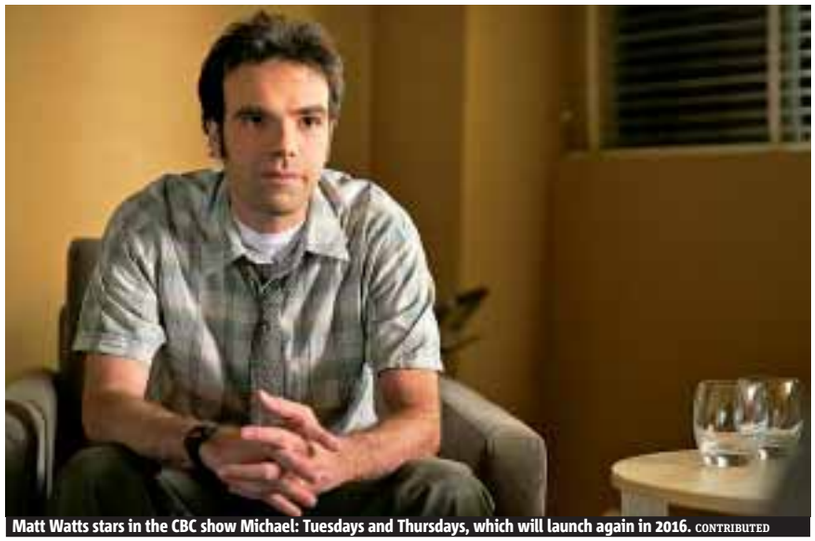
Matt Watts stars in the CBC show Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays, which will launch again in 2016. CONTRIBUTED

CBC TV resurrects comedy, adds doc health-care series

New programming. Broadcaster unveils 10 new projects over the next year

CBC is bringing back its critically acclaimed but little-seen comedy Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays while adding an espionage thriller and health-care series to its programming slate.

On Wednesday, the public broadcaster announced 10 new projects, including the Chris Haddock espionage series The Romeo Section, the Sudz Sutherland drama Shoot the Messenger, and single-camera comedy Kim's Convenience, based on the hit play of the same name.

New for fall is the factual series Keeping Canada Alive, in which cameras across the country film a day in the life of our health-care system.

In 2016, the factual series Hello Goodbye will feature emotional stories from people at a Canadian airport, while the comedy Baroness von Sketch Show will take aim at a range of issues including hipster culture and office politics.

Meanwhile, Michael: Tuesdays & Thursdays returns with six episodes in 2016, five years after CBC cancelled it amid dismal ratings.

CBC says Season 2 picks up five years later with Michael established in his new city, and David struggling to continue his practice without his regular sessions with Michael.

Sally Catto, general manager of programming for CBC Television, explained that CBC's strategy is about "premium content" and supporting single-camera comedies "that are bold, that are distinct."

"And there's just a lot of love here for Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays," said Catto, adding she couldn't comment on past strategy decisions that led to its cancellation. "We think it is a really, really strong property and we can't wait to get it back on the air."

Although beloved by critics, the dry comedy about a psychiatrist and his anxiety-riddled patient struggled to find an audience when it aired in 2011. Catto said that doesn't concern her.

"We knew that not every program we did was going to appeal to the broadest possible audience. So that isn't our goal and it's certainly not our goal for every program," she said.

"We know there's a loyal and dedicated audience, we love the program itself, we feel it's a great fit for us and we also believe strongly that the audience will grow."

Nevertheless, the new additions seem to come at the expense of another edgy CBC series, the dark western Strange Empire. CBC announced earlier this week it was axing the gritty show, which it touted as an example of a bold new direction in the wake of budget cuts and the loss of NHL broadcast rights.

Catto said that was an "incredibly difficult" decision and that ratings were not a factor. "There are so many brilliant programs and there's (only) so much space on the schedule and we had a number of strong projects in development," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Returning

- **Returning fall shows include:** Heartland, Murdoch Mysteries, Canada's Smartest Person, Dragons' Den, Rick Mercer Report and This Hour Has 22 Minutes.
- **Returning in 2016 will be:** the Eugene Levy comedy Schitt's Creek, Gerry Dee's high-school sitcom Mr. D and the spy series X Company.

Karrueche Tran dumped Chris Brown on Twitter after finding out he has a nine-month-old daughter. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Brown's baby drama too much for girlfriend

Surprise! Embattled singer Chris Brown is a dad. TMZ reports that Brown is the father to a nine-month-old girl with a former model identified only as Nia. There's no sign of legal trouble between the parents, and sources say they're on good terms and not romantically linked. Since it doesn't involve an ambulance dispatch or a court filing, I'm honestly scratching my head as to how TMZ found out about this.

While Brown is said to be "happy about being a father," the same can't be said for his on-again, off-again girlfriend, Karrueche Tran, who took to Twitter to officially dump him following the news. "Listen. One can only take so much. The best of luck to Chris and his family," she wrote.

"No baby drama for me." Good thinking.

The business of baby names

Maybe for his next child, Chris Brown might want to consider the services of a company that helps parents come up with unique monikers, à la Blue Ivy and North West.

- A Swiss company called Erfolgswelle vows to create a brand-new first name — for US$31,000.
- CEO and owner Marc Hauser said the process works similar to trademark naming with around 100 hours devoted to its creation and research.
- "I think it's very difficult to create a really fitting name, a name that fits to your family's background, to your cultural background," Hauser said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rogen's pot proclivities push Pascal's patience

Amy Pascal must seriously be losing patience with Seth Rogen at this point. After that whole business with The Interview and the hacking and her losing her job and all, he's now inadvertently making it impossible for Pascal to move into her new office on the Sony lot.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Pascal is set to make a home for her new Sony-financed production company in the offices previously occupied by Rogen and writing partner Evan Goldberg, only the lingering stench of marijuana is so strong, it has seeped into the flooring and is prompting a full paint job. Seriously, Seth, you've never heard of a vaporizer?

Hilton pleads guilty to assault

Some trouble you can't just buy your way out of. Conrad Hilton — 21-year-old hotel-chain heir and younger brother of Paris — has agreed to plead guilty to an assault charge from his infamous tirade during a flight from London to L.A. last year, and he could be looking at up to six months in prison and a $5,000 fine. Hilton's attorney, Robert Shapiro, said previously that Hilton's behaviour may have been "the effects of a sleeping pill" or some similar circumstance. According to an FBI affidavit, Hilton acknowledged calling other passengers "peasants" and said he would have killed one flight attendant if another passenger had not calmed him during the 10-hour flight July 31. Hilton ignored instructions to keep his seatbelt on and paced in the aisle as the aircraft took off. When told to sit, he launched into a series of tirades that had some children in tears. He threatened to kill several flight attendants and a co-pilot and get them fired, the affidavit said. "I could get you all fired in five minutes," Hilton said in one of the document's quotes that didn't include an expletive. WITH FILES FROM CP

Conrad Hilton and Kathy Hilton in 2008 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gossip

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A Bowie boom in fashion

Style. The runways are awash with references to the flamboyant glam-rock inspired fashions of the 1970s

Designers in Paris, London, New York and Milan have been sampling some of David Bowie's most iconic genderless looks of late: from jumpsuits to Lurex, fantastically wide lapels, snazzy sequins, and mohawks.

Saint Laurent head designer Hedi Slimane, a long-standing Bowie fan, launched the trend seasons ago, and then last year Raf Simons kickstarted the Bowie revival when he unveiled his Spring 2015 Haute Couture collection for Christian Dior.

The Dior runway was replete with all-over sequined onesies fit for Ziggy Stardust and outfits in psychedelic prints that would be at home on any of Bowie's arty album sleeves.

Gucci models channelled an androgynous, '70s pretty-boy look while sequined onesies were seen at Christian Dior. GETTY IMAGES AND AFP

Lyrics

"A small Jean Genie snuck off to the city. Strung out on lasers and slash-back blazers."

The Jean Genie as written by David Bowie

At the Vivienne Westwood catwalk in London last month, models sported bright Bowie-style furry mohawks, while face paint was a key beauty look at both Westwood's show and that of British designer Gareth Pugh.

At Milan Fashion Week, Alessandro Michele channelled the androgynous '70s pretty-boy look as he sent male and female models down the catwalk for his debut F/W 15-16 collection for Gucci.

Selfridges of London is launching its in-store Agender project this month (launching online on March 12), which will feature unisex clothing, a gender-less window display, and art pieces that examine the concept of gender-neutral fashion.

This week, as the fourth and final leg of ready-to-wear week arrives in Paris, followers of the star's exuberant style (and those fortunate enough to be in France) have been able to enjoy a Bowie fashion fest off the catwalk at the David Bowie Is exhibition at the cool new Philarmonie de Paris music complex. AFP

Bowie-style mohawks and face paint were key runway beauty looks at recent fashion shows in London. IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES

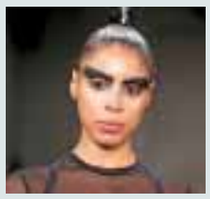
Trends Report online

Many top designers from Gucci to Dsquared2 paired their Milan Fashion Week collections with furry footwear. Go online to Trends Report and let us know what you think.

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report
- **Follow** Irene on Twitter @MetroIreneK and Instagram @kuanirene
- **Photo gallery.** Model at Gucci runway show in Milan. (Getty Images)

Beauty without boundaries

Transgender models have taken the fashion world by storm, and more and more are appearing in high fashion magazines and on the runway METRO NEW YORK



Gisele Xtravaganza

Gisele Xtravaganza became the latest transgender model to grace the catwalks of New York Fashion Week.

Geena Rocero

After her brave coming out, Rocero walked the runway for Carmen Marc Valvo's Spring 2015 collection and created an organization called Gender Proud.

Andreja Pejic

Andreja Pejic isn't a newcomer to the fashion industry, but she changed her name to Andreja last year after completing her sex reassignment surgery.

Lea T

The Brazil-born beauty caught the eye of Givenchy designer Ricardo Tischi in 2010 and has served as his muse ever since. Lea T is also the face of Redken.

Make your small space look bigger

Feeling cramped in your small space and need to redecorate? Here are five small-space decorating tricks you can use to make your place seem larger

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

1. Keep colours and tones similar

Decorating with all light, all medium or all dark tones creates a visual flow that allows the eye to roam, giving the sense of a larger space. Keeping every decorating element similar will make your space feel much larger. Note: this is the trick designers use to make those tiny model suites feel larger.

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

2. Go vertical

Drapery panels, stacking art vertically on the walls, floor lamps, an étagère and even tall plants help to draw the eye upwards which is as important as guiding the eye around a room. Vittsjo Metal and Glass Étagère, $50, Ikea.com

3. Add some sheen

Reflective surfaces like shiny countertops, stainless steel appliances, glass coffee tables and glossy paint will reflect light around the room. Dana Acrylic Writing Desk, $2,000, Horchow.com

4. Allow one focal point per room

Best areas to zero in on: head of bed, bathroom mirror, television or console table in foyer. Have a boring living room? Try adding a double-duty fireplace/television stand as an attractive and useful focal point. Muskoka Durant Electric Media Mantel, $930, Lowes.ca

5. Furnishings should do double-duty

Any investment furniture piece should provide at least two services, like a console table that acts a desk, an ottoman with storage space, or a comfy dining chair that can be used as additional seating. A bed with built-in drawers helps to eliminate the need for a dresser. Universal's Spencer Storage Bed, $2,200, TheBay.com

French techniques with a Mexican soul

Dinner. Braised Lamb Shanks with Poblano Peppers and Pinto Beans combines two cultures

This recipe serves four. RYAN SZULC

"Quebec French cuisine 'with a Latin accent' is the specialty of Montreal chef David Ferguson, Ontario-raised and a graduate of the Stratford Chefs School," writes Julian Armstrong in Made in Quebec.

"Faithful to French culinary techniques at his midtown bistro, Restaurant Gus, David also adds flavours learned on his cooking sojourns in Mexico and New Mexico."

This Braised Lamb Shanks with Poblano Peppers and Pinto Beans recipe perfectly embodies that philosophy.

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F (150 C).

2. Finely chop 1 of the onions. In a 4-quart (4 L) heavy, stovetop-safe casserole dish with a lid, heat 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of the oil over medium-high heat and brown lamb on all sides. Remove to a plate. Reduce heat to medium and, in the same casserole dish, sauté carrot, chopped onion, garlic, and leek just until golden, about 5 minutes.

3. Add 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the cold water to the pan and scrape up any brown bits. Return lamb to the casserole dish and add 5 cups (1.25 ml) cold water or enough to cover. Add thyme and ancho pepper. Bring mixture to a boil, then cover, transfer to the oven and roast for 1 hour and 45 minutes, until lamb is tender.

4. Remove lamb to a plate. Season the cooking liquid with salt and pepper. Discard ancho pepper. Simmer cooking liquid until it is reduced to about 3 cups (750 ml).

5. Meanwhile, cut remaining onion in half vertically, then slice finely. In a heavy frying pan, heat remaining 1 tablespoon (15 ml) oil over medium-high heat and cook onion until caramelized.

6. Return lamb to casserole dish. Add beans, tomatoes, caramelized onion, and poblano pepper. Reheat mixture and serve on deep, warmed serving plates.

RECIPES FROM MADE IN QUEBEC: A CULINARY JOURNEY BY JULIAN ARMSTRONG ©2014. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Ingredients

- 2 large onions
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) olive oil
- 4 lamb shanks
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 leek, white part only, chopped
- 5 1/2 cups (1.375 l) cold water
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) finely chopped fresh thyme or rosemary
- 1/2 ancho pepper, rehydrated
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) beans, preferably pinto or red kidney, drained and rinsed
- 4 Roma tomatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped, or 2 cups (500 ml) canned Italian tomatoes
- 1 poblano pepper, grilled, peeled, seeded, and cut in strips

Cookbook of the Week

More to Quebec than Poutine

The culinary treasure that is Quebec isn't as celebrated as it should be, and Julian Armstrong is out to change that with her book Made in Quebec.

Armstrong, a longtime food writer, has spent her career documenting the Quebecois food scene. The book is the result of those years and features stories of restaurateurs, farmers, artisanal cheese and bread makers, home cooks and more.

Among recipes included in Made In Quebec are Spiced Pork Spread, Roasted Vegetable Quiche, Skirt Steak with Gorgonzola Sauce, Roast Beef with Gravy and Chocolate Cranberry Cookies. METRO

This recipe serves four. RYAN SZULC

Smoked Salmon Tartare

1. Using a sharp knife, chop salmon finely. In a bowl, place salmon, dill, mandarins, lemon juice, capers, and oil. Mix and season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours.

2. Tartare may be spooned onto 4 serving plates or packed into 4 moulds or ramekins (1/2 cup/125 ml each), then unmoulded onto the plates.

3. Trim plates with lemons and capers. Serve with baguette slices, toasted until crisp.

Ingredients

- 12 slices (250 g) cold-smoked salmon
- 2 sprigs fresh dill, chopped
- 2 peeled mandarin oranges or clementines, pith removed, in segments and chopped
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) capers, rinsed and patted dry
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- Lemon quarters
- Capers
- Baguette, to serve

For your phone

Williams-Sonoma Recipe Of The Day (iPad; 1st month free/ subscription)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

Shopping lists, timers and a calendar are useful, but more photos and detailed cooking instructions would help make this daily recipe subscription service worth buying after the first free month.

Dine-Out Winnipeg

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Not-so-fun facts about the common cold

Achoo! Did you know there are more than 100 viruses that cause the pesky sickness?

JACQUELINE KOVACS
For Metro

Do you feel like that annoying cold just keeps coming back? It's more likely that you are just getting new ones. According to the Mayo Clinic, there are more than 100 viruses that cause the common cold — and any combination of the accompanying runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, coughing, sore throat and congestion.

That's just one not-so-fun fact about the common cold and flu. Read on for more.

The most common

And the winner is — the rhinovirus! It's the most common strain of cold people catch. It's to blame for your nose running like a tap. And given how versatile this virus is, you can easily catch one after another.

So much for the man cold

Guys may gripe more about their nagging coughs and congestion, but, on average, women get more colds than men. It is thought that this is because women tend to have more contact with children — who are total virus magnets — than men do.

Talk about staying power

Flu viruses can linger for up to two days on non-porous, hard surfaces and a full 12 hours on soft ones. At human body temperature, flu viruses can stay infectious for about a week. At the freezing point, they can stay infectious for more than 30 days and, below freezing, they can last indefinitely.

Your sneeze is loaded

Sneezing into a tissue or your elbow is more than just good manners — it's a major preventative action. A sneeze leaves your body at about 90 miles per hour, bringing with it virus-laden droplets that can reach people within 30 feet of you. And, yes, sneezing on someone is a very effective way of giving them your cold.

Share statistics instead of the virus. A sneeze projects virus-laden droplets within a 30-foot radius, so sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. SHUTTERSTOCK

It's in the stars

Why do we call that annual scourge "influenza?" It comes from the Italian word influentia. Back in the day, it seems people blamed the influence of the moon, stars and planets for the flu's nasty and widespread influence.

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PHC-13942

NBA

LeBron, Cavaliers power past Raps

Jonas Valanciunas scored 26 points and grabbed 11 rebounds but it wasn't enough to lift the Raptors past the Cleveland Cavaliers in a 120-112 loss Wednesday night.

LeBron James had 29 points and 14 assists for the Cavs (39-24).

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points, while Lou Williams had 21 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for the Raptors (38-23), who rested all-star guard Kyle Lowry for the third straight game.

Kyrie Irving added 26 points for Cleveland.

The Raptors, who were coming off a 114-103 win at Philadelphia on Monday, trailed by as many as 19 points in the third quarter, but took a 93-91 lead with just under four minutes remaining when Williams drilled a three-pointer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World Cup of Hockey

Sportsnet and TVA to broadcast tourney in Canada

Sportsnet and TVA are staying with the NHL to broadcast the 2016 World Cup of Hockey in Canada.

The NHL and NHL Players' Association on Wednesday announced that league partners Sportsnet and TVA were awarded Canadian media rights to the upcoming tournament, again beating out TSN and RDS. The 2016 World Cup of Hockey, a joint venture of the NHL and NHLPA, will take place Sept. 17 to Oct. 16 at Toronto's Air Canada Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Senators' Bobby Ryan, left, celebrates scoring a goal with Alex Chiasson at the MTS Centre on Wednesday night. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets stymied by hot Senators netminder

NHL. Hutchinson pulled from Winnipeg goal, Byfuglien leaves game with upper-body injury

On Wednesday

Senators	Jets
3	1

Rookie goaltender Andrew Hammond made 35 saves and Kyle Turris had a goal and assist as the Ottawa Senators upset the Winnipeg Jets 3-1 on Wednesday.

Bobby Ryan and Erik Condra also found the back of the net for Ottawa (28-23-11), which was coming off a 3-2 shootout loss the night before in Minnesota.

The Senators are now 6-0-1 in their last seven games and battling for a playoff spot. Their 67 points puts them four points out of a wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference.

Michael Frolik was the only Winnipeg player to beat Hammond early in the third period after the Sens had mounted a 3-0 lead.

Hammond, who is 6-0-1 since his first start Feb. 18, was starting his seventh straight game because Craig Anderson is still nursing a hand injury.

Michael Hutchinson got the nod for his fifth straight start for Winnipeg (32-21-12), but was replaced by Ondrej Pavelec with 8:06 left in the second period after Condra's goal made it 3-0 for the Sens.

Hutchinson had stopped 14 of the 17 shots he faced. Pavelec only had to stop three shots in relief.

Winnipeg defenceman Dustin Byfuglien also left the ice after Condra's goal and didn't return because of what the team called an upper-body injury. He appeared to be favouring his right arm during Condra's scoring play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jacobs first to secure playoff berth at Brier

With a 4-3 win over Saskatchewan on Wednesday, Brad Jacobs' Northern Ontario rink improved to 9-0 at the Brier. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs not only secured a playoff berth early at the Canadian men's curling championship, but clinched a spot in the playoff game between the top two seeds.

At 9-0, the reigning Olympic champions can finish no worse than second in the round robin that concludes Friday morning. Jacobs downed Saskatchewan's Steve Laycock 4-3 in the afternoon draw Wednesday.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the preliminary round advance to playoffs. The top two seeds meet with the winner advancing directly to Sunday's final. The loser drops to the semifinal to face the winner of the playoff between the third and fourth seeds.

Newfoundland and Labrador's Brad Gushue closed in on a playoff berth at 7-2. With his final shot, the skip executed an intricate double raise to score the winning point in an 8-7 victory over Alberta's Kevin Koe.

Quebec's Jean-Michel Menard and Team Canada's John Morris were tied at 6-3. Canada beat Ontario's Mark Kean 7-4 and Quebec beat Manitoba's Reid Carruthers 7-4.

Saskatchewan dropped to 4-3 with a game to play in the evening draw. Manitoba, Alberta and B.C.'s Jim Cotter were 3-4. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Additional results

Go to metronews.ca for results from Wednesday's late draw.

4 SPORTS

Hutch heroics will push Jets to playoffs

VIEW FROM THE 300S
Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson
winnipeg@metronews.ca

The Winnipeg Jets welcomed two more players to the team this week as Kevin Cheveldayoff bolstered his roster prior to the NHL trade deadline.

Jiri Tlusty and Lee Stempniak are the newest Jets and should provide a nice boost to the lineup as the team hits the road for four tough games starting Saturday in Nashville. An argument can be made that the team leaves for Music City icing its strongest lineup since coming to Winnipeg from Atlanta in 2011. But somewhat lost in the flurry of activity leading up the deadline has been the play of the one player who will likely have the most impact on the Jets' fortunes for the rest of the season.

Michael Hutchinson has simply been outstanding this season and, in the last couple of weeks, proved to Paul Maurice he seems ready for the challenge of leading this team to the playoffs. There is no longer any sort of controversy surrounding the goaltending situation with the Jets. It's Hutch time.

Maurice has increased playing time for the rookie gradually over the course of the year. The early numbers Hutchinson posted were obviously unsustainable. He led the league in save percentage and goals against average for a period early in the season. But he showed his coach and teammates that he was quite deserving of a greater workload going forward and it has paid off in a big way in the standings.

Hutchinson first got the chance to start three consecutive games after the NHL All Star break but faltered, along with a team in front of him that simply didn't play up to the standard they set going into the break. Those nervous days for Hutchinson and the Jets are behind them.

Going into Wednesday's game Hutchinson had started six of the last seven games for the Jets and the team is 4-0-2 in those starts, earning important points in all six games. As much as we focus on other stats, wins and points are pretty much the only statistics that matter right now for a team in the middle of a dogfight for a playoff spot in the West. Michael Hutchinson started last season in the East Coast Hockey League seemingly miles away from his NHL dream. By the end of the year he was backstopping the St John's Ice Caps to the AHL Calder Cup final. Ten months later, Hutch has won the Jets job and will be the team's most important player going down the stretch.

The Stanley Cup playoffs are well within reach of the Winnipeg Jets and Hutchinson is the man to get them there. After that, anything is possible.

Winnipeg Jets goaltender Michael Hutchinson has come into his own this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Today's full moon suggests you won't be thinking straight, especially about matters related to your work and wellbeing. Don't take doubts too seriously.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Chances are you will totally and utterly disagree with the advice you are given today. Maybe it is a load of nonsense — but what if it isn't?

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The planets warn you are expecting too much of yourself and must adjust your ambitions to a more practical level. Don't get uptight if a friend tells you something you don't want to hear.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Don't waste precious time and energy on petty arguments today because you should be channeling everything you have got in productive directions.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Today's full moon suggests you may have to cut back financially, most likely because you have bitten off more than you can chew.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Stick with the facts today. The planets warn if you embellish the truth in any way, you will be found out.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Try not to provoke any arguments or showdowns today, because while the moon is full you are unlikely to be on the winning side.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something you have always taken for granted will be held up to the light of the full moon and shown to be less substantial than you imagined.

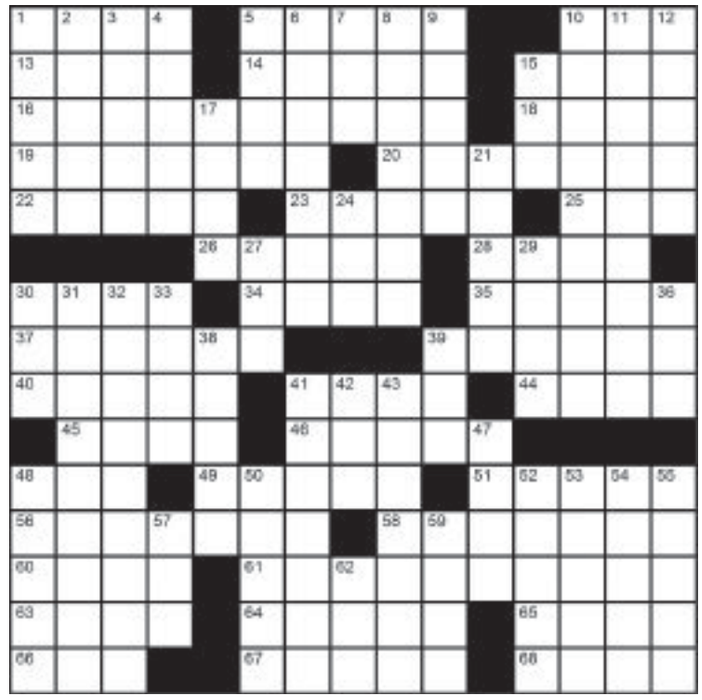
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Listen to what others have to tell you today but don't think you are obliged to do what they suggest. You are advised to hold off making a major move while the moon is full.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will find it hard to make up your mind as to what it is you should be doing today. The planets indicate there is no need to rush.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may have some amazing ideas running through your head at the moment but don't be too eager to do anything with them.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You have big plans, but have you thought them through properly? Today's full moon in your opposite sign suggests you may have missed something of importance.

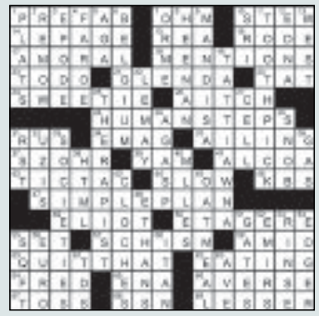
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Spell-starting sound
5. Culinary figures
10. 'The Minister of Everything': Politician/businessman Mr. Howe, et al. (b.1886 - d.1960)
13. It's what's 'proper' in grammar class
14. "__ __ en Rose" by Edith Piaf
15. Go to buy things
16. Kinross = Canadian __ __ company
18. Enamored
19. Sporting taboo, __ use
20. Pointer Sisters hit: "__ Dance"
22. Flung
23. Custom-__ homes
25. Brunch offering
26. Actor, __ William Scott
28. Footnote abbr.
30. Secretary's 'swift', shortly
34. Excited
35. More slack
37. Height measurement units
39. Non-laced running shoes fastener
40. Erin of "Happy Days"
41. "My Friend __" ('50s sitcom)
44. Upcoming annual film/music/interactive festival in Austin, Texas
45. Exhausted
46. Mike of "Shrek the Third" (2007)
48. Egyptian cobra
49. Hiked, as prices
51. Jeweller's measurement, variantly
56. Even less sincere
58. Mimic
60. Prince Charles' sport
61. Newfoundland body of water, __ Bay
63. Petals-not-pearls pieces
64. Tweety-like
65. Fails to be
66. Winding shape
67. Toronto-headquartered fashion company, __ Bella (See #6-Down for more!)
68. Spelled-out marks

Down
1. Uneasy feeling
2. County fair stall
3. Pencil case item
4. Canadian defenceman Mr. Benoit on the Buffalo Sabres
5. Old Rome's 152
6. Vegan __ (Main product by #67-Across)
7. Midianite royal
8. Caterpillar equipment dealer/support company based in Edmonton, __ (Canada)
9. Jason of "How I Met Your Mother"
10. "Boom Clap" songstress: 2 wds.
11. Meaning-well folks
12. Big name in shapewear
15. Army gig, briefly
17. Cuts the blades
21. Handy
24. 108-card game
27. '_' __ in Embrun
29. Dances for Cinderella, in Paris
30. Toothpaste brand
31. Trekking-in-white-fluff gear
32. The Parthenon is located on the what in Athens?
33. Racehorse flick, "__ Lap" (1983)
36. Theatre ticket detail
38. Tedium
39. Alternate spelling, for short
41. Make better
42. Cereal grass
43. Thorough patient examination
47. Jump rope
48. Fruit selection
50. Butter __ (Flavour for ice cream)
52. House's accessed-by-ladder spot
53. Heighten
54. Make amends
55. Rustic shelters
57. Headshakes
59. Ms. Suvari
62. Nada

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	4	7	9	1	3	6	5	8
9	3	8	2	6	5	4	7	1
1	5	6	4	7	8	2	3	9
7	6	9	1	5	2	8	4	3
3	2	5	8	4	9	7	1	6
4	8	1	7	3	6	5	9	2
5	9	4	6	2	1	3	8	7
6	1	3	5	8	7	9	2	4
8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6	5

Today's Sudoku

		5	9	7	3	2		
	9						4	
8				5				9
7				4				1
2	6			1	7	4		8
1								2
9								5
	3			9			6	
		2	5	8	4	1		

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